

[1851]

Staten Island. May 20.

My dear May. If on account  
of any strong personal reasons  
you wished to give Reed the  
name of your Informant, of  
course I should not object.

I judge however from your  
note, that you have not let  
me say therefore that it  
will save me a good deal  
of inconvenience in the way  
of letter writing to Reed and  
perhaps others, if you will  
decline acceding to his request.

I should also wish to  
know from you which of the  
statements that have appeared  
in print on the subject was  
by yourself. That in the Community  
had an error or two. (the result  
of misunderstanding I presume of  
my meaning when conversing on  
the subject). I think it possible  
if you give it that I may have led you into  
an unimportant error or two.  
though want of definiteness on my  
part, which are of so little import  
that there is no need of our  
going into their discussion as  
the matter now stand, but which  
would require it, were Reed's



wish gratified.  
Merely to save "batter" about  
a trivial point having no  
bearing upon the main question  
I think, in a word, that  
you had better refuse - &  
if he asks if I wrote it  
say that you are not at  
liberty to reply. Yours truly  
J. Parkman